REMARKS

A. Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 remain rejected as being unpatentable for obviousness over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,627,763) in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,682) as evidenced by Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary.

In maintaining this rejection, the Examiner cites to Anderson '763 as disclosing in situ generation of active compounds, effectively stating that compounds with protected hydroxyl groups of Anderson are no different from Formula I of the instant claims. The Examiner then provides the definition of "in situ" and "spontaneous" and concludes that the in situ disclosure of Anderson '763 is a spontaneous event. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The fragrance precursor of the claimed invention, compound of formula I, includes two oxygen atoms which belong to one single carboxyl (-(C=O)O-) group. The fragrance precursor of Anderson, compound having the formula [Y]m-[Z]n, includes at least 4 oxygen atoms (at least 3 in the Y part, at least one in the Z part) which belong to at least two different carboxyl groups (one carboxyl group links the parts Y and Z, the other one is located in the substituent $CR^5(R^6)nCOX$ since X is OR^7. Thus, since the structures of the claimed invention and Anderson are, in fact, different, the mechanism of the fragrance release as well as the time scale upon which the release of the fragrance proceeds are different as well.

Release of the fragrance in the claimed method is achieved by hydrolysis of a carboxyl group which results in the formation of a fragrance aldehyde or ketone; and the fragrance is released immediately upon cleavage of the singe carboxyl group in the compound of formula I. Whereas, the compounds of formula [Y]m-[Z]n of Anderson are cleaved under activating conditions in two successive steps. First, the "protective group" Z is removed resulting in a hydroxyester. Then, the hydroxyester decomposes into one or more organoleptic lactone(s), ando one or more alcohol(s), amine(s), aldehyde(s) and/or ketone(s). (Col. 3 at lines 66 to Col. 4 at line 22 of Anderson '763). Due to the need to cleave two carboxyl groups, the release of fragrance from Anderson's precursor takes significantly more time than with the precursor used in the claimed method. This also applies to the method described in Anderson '682 (see Col. 3 at lines 55 to Col. 4 at line 15).

The claimed invention overcomes this disadvantage of slowed release detailed in Anderson. The claims now distinguish that the spontaneous release of fragrance is based on the rapid rate of hydrolysis of the fragrance precursor. As discussed above, this rapid rate of

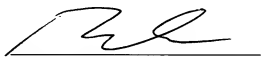
hydrolysis leads to the spontaneous release of the fragrance. Support for this is provided in Table 2 of Applicants' specification.

This distinguishes mere "in situ" generation of the active compounds based on location. This also distinguishes Anderson '763 and Anderson'682, both of which disclose their respective compounds as providing a "**slow release of the active agents**." (Col. 6 at lines 21-22 of Anderson '763 and Col. 6, lines 12-13 of Anderson '682, emphasis added). Thus, even if the activation occurs in situ, the activation is slow and not based on the rapid rate of hydrolysis of the precursor compounds.

Thus, one skilled in the art would not be able to achieve spontaneous release of fragrances based on the rapid rate of hydrolysis of the fragrance precursor simply relying on the disclosure of Anderson '673, Anderson '682 and Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, either alone or in combination as those references clearly teach away from spontaneous fragrance release. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is requested.

For the Applicants,



Rajiv S. Shah
Registration No. 56,247

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, NW Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036-2680
(202) 659-9076
Dated: 9-14-2010